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[NL/NL]; Gelrestraat 11, NL-6151 JA Munstergeleen  
(NL).

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(74) Agent: **HERMANS, Edith, Elisabeth, Hermine**; DSM  
Intellectual Property, P.O. Box 9, NL-6160 MA Geleen  
(NL).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **DSM IP  
ASSETS B.V.** [NL/NL]; Het Overloon 1, NL-6411 TE  
Heerlen (NL).

(71) Applicant (*for US only*): **KAPTEIN, Bernardus**  
[NL/NL]; Irenelaan 33, NL-6133 BE Sittard (NL).

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(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **VERZIJL, Gerar-  
dus, Karel, Maria** [NL/NL]; Nicolaasstraat 12, NL-5855  
AR Well (NL). **BROXTERMAN, Quirinus, Bernardus**

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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE RACEMISATION OF ENANTIOMERICALLY ENRICHED ALPHA-AMINO NITRILES

(57) **Abstract:** Process for the racemisation of an enantiomerically enriched  $\alpha$ -amino nitrile characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched  $\alpha$ -amino nitrile is contacted with a lewis acid catalyst. Preferably an aprotic solvent is used. The lewis acid catalyst preferably comprises a metal chosen from main group elements IA-IVA of the Periodic Table (CAS version), the transition metals and the lanthanides, in particular Al, Ti, Zr, or lanthanides. The catalyst for example has the general structure  $M_nX_pS_qL_r$ , and preferably is chosen from the group of aluminum alkoxides, aluminum alkyls, lanthanide alkoxides and lanthanocenes. The racemisation may be performed in combination with a resolution process, for instance in combination with an enzymatic or a crystallization induced resolution process, preferably in situ, for instance in situ in a crystallization induced asymmetric transformation process.

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